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Measures to eliminate international terrorism

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Sixty-eighth year

Identical letters dated 25 July 2013 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I should like to convey to you the following information:

Terrorists belonging to the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant terrorist organization perpetrated a fresh terrorist crime in Rif Dimashq that targeted a crowded residential neighbourhood through which many persons pass. This afternoon, terrorists detonated a car that had been packed with a large quantity of explosives in Suyuf Square in Jaramana, Rif Dimashq, a crowded city through which many persons pass. The explosion killed 10 civilians and injured 66 others, including children, some of whom suffered grave injuries. The explosion also caused tremendous material damage to property, stores, residential buildings and cars at the site and in the surrounding area.

The Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, which the United Nations has designated as a terrorist organization affiliated with Al-Qaida, has claimed responsibility for this crime. This attack is the latest in a series of terrorist attacks that organizations affiliated with Al-Qaida have carried out in Syria over the past few months. Dozens of Syrian civilians have lost their lives as a result of explosions and suicide attacks that targeted numerous sites in Syria.

In setting out the realities of this new crime, responsibility for which has been claimed by an Al-Qaida-affiliated organization that is included in the list of terrorist organizations maintained by the Security Council, the Syrian Arab Republic trusts that the Security Council will unequivocally condemn this terrorist crime and reiterate its repudiation of terrorism, regardless of when or where it occurs. It further trusts that the Council will call on those States and parties that are supporting the terrorist organizations in Syria to desist from providing them with any form of logistical and military support and to comply strictly with the international counter-terrorism instruments and relevant Council resolutions.

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By taking a clear position regarding these terrorist crimes, the Security Council would send a strong message to the perpetrators that the international community is united in its efforts to counter terrorism and does not apply double standards that encourage terrorist organizations to continue committing such crimes. These organizations respect no borders and seek to drag the region back to the ages of darkness and backwardness. The Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant's assumption of responsibility for the terrorist crimes recently committed in Syria and Iraq is clear proof that this organization, which targets innocent civilians, poses a transnational threat that must be understood.

I should be grateful if this letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 105 on measures to eliminate international terrorism, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Bashar **Ja'afari**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative